

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 10 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein said through hole is 4 mm or larger.
3. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 10 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the arm of each hinge element has a circular cut out portion through which the boss extends, the circular cut out portion having an inner surface which slidably cooperates with an outer surface of the boss whereby the arm is supported on the boss and is rotatable relative to the boss.
4. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 10 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein each hinge element further comprises an elastic member mounted on the boss for providing an urging force against a side surface of the arm to securely hold the arm on the boss.
5. (Previously presented) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 4, wherein the elastic element is a spring.
6. – 9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly ~~according to claim 9,~~
comprising:
a bracket;
two hinge elements, each hinge element comprising an arm and a boss defining a
through hole, at least one of which is configured for receiving wiring for electrically connecting

first and second parts of a handheld electronic device, wherein said arm is rotatably mounted on said boss, and wherein the hinge elements are pivotally connected to the bracket; and

a third hinge element comprising a boss defining a through hole;

wherein the bracket comprises a C-shaped bracket which connects the three hinge elements together in the hinge module, wherein the two of the hinge elements share a first axis of rotation and the axis of rotation of the third hinge element is perpendicular to the first axis of rotation;

wherein the C-shaped bracket comprises a cross-piece and two lobes, each lobe and the cross-piece having a circular cut out portion for mounting on a respective one of the three bosses with the two bosses mounted on the lobes of the C-shaped bracket forming a pair sharing the first axis of rotation;

wherein the modular hinge comprising a further bracket, said further bracket being mounted to the third boss which does not share the first axis of rotation, thereby linking the C-shaped bracket and the further bracket;

wherein the further bracket comprises ~~[[is]]~~ a second C-shaped bracket having a cross-piece and two lobes, each lobe and the cross-piece having a circular cut away portion for mounting the bracket on three bosses with two of the bosses mounted on the lobes of the C-shaped bracket forming a pair sharing a common axis of rotation and the third boss being common with the third boss mounted to the first C-shaped bracket.

11. – 19. Canceled

20. (Currently amended) A modular hinge for mechanically connecting first and second parts of a handheld electronic device, said modular hinge comprising:

~~at least two~~ hinge elements, each hinge element comprising an arm and a boss defining a through hole for receiving wiring for electrically connecting the first and second parts, said arm being rotatably mounted on said boss, and wherein the hinge elements are ~~rigidly~~ connected by a bracket; and

a third hinge element comprising a boss and a through hole;

wherein the bracket comprises ~~[[is]]~~ a C-shaped bracket which connects the three hinge elements together in the hinge module, wherein the two ~~of the~~ hinge elements share a first axis of rotation and the axis of rotation of the third hinge element is perpendicular to the first axis of rotation;

wherein the C-shaped bracket comprises a cross-piece and two lobes, each lobe and the cross-piece having a circular cut out portion for mounting the bracket on three bosses with ~~[[the]]~~ two of the bosses mounted on the lobes of the C-shaped bracket forming a pair sharing the first axis of rotation, the third boss mounted on the cross-piece of the C-shaped bracket and having a second axis of rotation that is perpendicular to the first axis of rotation;

wherein the modular hinge comprises ~~comprising~~ a further bracket, said further bracket being mounted to the third boss ~~which does not share the first axis of rotation~~, thereby linking the C-shaped bracket and the further bracket; and

wherein the further bracket is a second C-shaped bracket having a cross-piece and two lobes, ~~each lobe and the cross-piece having a circular cut away portion for mounting the bracket on three bosses with two of the bosses mounted on the lobes of the C-shaped bracket forming a pair sharing a common axis of rotation and the third boss being common with the third boss mounted to the first C-shaped bracket.~~

21. – 27. Canceled

28. (New) A mobile electronic device comprising:
a first part;
a second part; and
a modular hinge for mechanically connecting the first and second parts of a mobile electronic device, said modular hinge comprising:

first and second pairs of hinge elements, each hinge element comprising an arm and a boss defining a through hole for receiving wiring for electrically connecting the first and second parts, said arm being rotatably mounted on said boss; and

a bracket comprising a cross piece and four lobes, each lobe having a circular cut out portion wherein the circular cut out portions are mounted on outer surfaces of the bosses,

wherein the bracket aligns the through holes of the hinge elements of the first pair of hinge elements in a first axis and aligns the through holes of the hinge elements of the second pair of hinge elements in a second axis of rotation, the first and second axes of rotation being parallel with respect to each other; and

wherein the wiring passes through the interior of the modular hinge via the through holes between the first part and the second part of the mobile electronic device.

29. (New) A mobile electronic device comprising:

a first part;

a second part; and

a modular hinge for mechanically connecting the first and second parts of a mobile electronic device, said modular hinge comprising:

a first pair of hinge elements, each hinge element comprising an arm and a boss defining a through hole for receiving wiring for electrically connecting the first and second parts, said arm being rotatably mounted on said boss;

a third hinge element comprising a boss defining a through hole; and

a bracket comprising a cross piece and two lobes, each lobe and the cross piece having a circular cut out portion wherein the circular cut out portions are mounted on outer surfaces of the bosses;

wherein the first pair of the hinge elements are mounted on the lobes and the bracket aligns the through holes of the first pair of the hinge elements with a first axis of rotation and the third hinge element is mounted on the cross piece and the bracket aligns the through hole of the third hinge with a second axis of rotation perpendicular with respect to the first axis of

Appl No. 10/584,001

Amendment Dated February 1, 2011

Response to Office Action of October 1, 2010

rotation, and wherein the wiring passes through the interior of the modular hinge via the through holes between the first part and the second part of the mobile electronic device.